

Leadership Development Opportunities

6th Edition

A Guide for Iowa Youth

January 2006



iowacollaboration
for**youth**development

www.icyd.org



iowa collaboration
for youth development

The Iowa Youth Development Leadership Development Opportunities Guide is updated and distributed periodically as a service of the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Project.

The ICYD Project is an interagency initiative designed to better align policies and programs and to encourage collaboration among multiple state and community agencies on youth-related issues. The goals of the initiative are to promote the use of positive youth development principles in state policies and programs and to facilitate the use of effective youth development practices in communities throughout Iowa.

If you are aware of youth leadership opportunities that should be included in future editions of this guide or if you would like to receive future editions, please contact:

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development
c/o Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: (515) 242-5823
E-mail: amy.crolli@iowa.gov

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Inclusion of a program in this guide does not necessarily connote endorsement or recommendation of the program by the ICYD.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Success seems to be connected with action.
Successful people keep moving. They make
mistakes, but they don't quit."

-Conrad Hilton



INTRODUCTION

An old adage suggests “Leaders are born, not created.” It is true that many individuals become leaders without formal “leadership” training. Most of today’s leaders, however, likely had numerous opportunities to develop their leadership skills and took advantage of experiences that provided them with the knowledge and confidence to assume leadership roles and responsibilities.

This *Guide* summarizes some of the many opportunities and experiences available to Iowa youth to enhance their leadership potential and to exercise their leadership abilities. This information was compiled at the request of the Youth Planning Committee for the Governor’s Youth Leadership and Mentoring Conference in 1999 and has continued through the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development. Although not an exhaustive listing, the *Guide* provides information on many of the state and national leadership development opportunities for middle and high school youth throughout Iowa. Contact information for each program is provided for those wanting to learn more about the opportunities summarized in the *Guide*. Recommendations for program additions for future publication of this *Guide* are welcome.

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development is an interagency initiative designed to improve coordination among state and community agencies on youth-related issues and to encourage the use of effective, positive youth development principles and practices at the state level and in communities throughout Iowa. This Collaboration is working to shift the focus away from the failings of youth and concentrate instead on the strengths and abilities of young people. There are approximately 330,000 youth, ages 12 to 19, in Iowa. These young people are a resource today—not just a future asset.

Opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills—and opportunities to take on leadership roles—are important developmental experiences for all youth, not just those at the “top of the class.” Encouraging youth to serve in leadership roles and providing them with support and assistance as they take on these responsibilities is critical. Youth and adults working in partnership can have a tremendous impact on our schools, our communities, and our state. We will all benefit by recognizing, fostering and utilizing the skills and abilities, and the energy and enthusiasm, of all of Iowa’s youth.

"The great end of life is not
knowledge but action."

-T.H. Huxley



Iowa Leadership Development Opportunities

*Descriptions and contact information for
state-wide opportunities*

BUSINESS HORIZONS

“Where the bottom line is FUN!”



Get a jump-start on your future at **Business Horizons...a week-long**, hands-on, live-in program where you'll connect with professionals, get tips from Iowa's corporate leaders and discover some secrets about yourself in the process. You'll also get a taste of college life by staying on a college campus and having the option of earning college credits.

This is a camp for EVERYONE! You don't need any prior training or business classes...just the desire to discover new skills and opportunities, all while having **FUN!**

The state-wide Business Horizons program is held each July. Dates for the upcoming summer program are available in August the previous year. Please see the website or call for a current schedule.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Must be high school student as of the spring prior to the program.
- *No specific academic requirements
- *All accepted applicants are awarded a scholarship, provided by the business community, to attend the camp, only a minimum fee is paid by students.
- *Applications available at every high school January through March or online at www.iowaabi.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Business Horizons
Association of Business and Industry Foundation
904 Walnut Street, Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50309-3503

Phone: (515) 235-0569
Fax: (515) 282-8085
E-mail: kthomas@iowaabi.org
Web site: www.iowaabi.org



Get A Grip Youth Leadership Program

Get A Grip is a youth leadership and traffic safety program dedicated to developing leadership skills of high school age students. The Iowa State University Department of Public Safety hosts an annual three-day conference each summer on the ISU campus attended by "teams" of high school students and adults from across Iowa. During the conference, participants work with other students and adults who share their enthusiasm in large group activities and small group discussions.



Get A Grip also goes on the road in the fall and spring with one-day leadership workshops to reach students in their home regions. The summer conference and the school-year workshops support youth and adults who are working together to create healthy communities by providing skills and ideas for fun, alcohol-free, traffic-safe environments that accept individual differences, celebrate collective similarities and encourage ACTION!

Criteria for Youth:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Laurinda Smith
ISU Department of Public Safety
168 Armory
Ames, IA 50011-3034

Phone: 515-294-8760

Fax: 515-294-8241

E-mail: getagrip@iastate.edu

Web site: www.dps.iastate.edu/getagrip

- *Must be 14-18 years old
- *Potential to be leaders, but have not had the opportunity
- *Summer Conference: Participate in teams of 5-6 students and one adult advisor
- *Workshops: 10-12 students and one adult advisor
- *Free to students

HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP (HOBY)

To seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential commencing with high school sophomores.

The **Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program** implements its purpose in three ways:

- *by providing interactive opportunities for critical thinking
- *by promoting democracy and America's incentive system, and
- *by encouraging social responsibility among individuals and participating corporations.

Leadership Seminars are designed to prepare our country's high school sophomores to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace, and community.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Must be a high school **sophomore**
- *High school selects one student from their school to attend

Community Leadership Workshops

are **one-day** leadership workshops held in a local community. Each workshop has several sessions covering the theme of America's Incentive System as it pertains to leadership, government, education, and industry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Heather Scoville
Leadership Seminar Chair
PO Box 486
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
Email: heatherscoville@iahoby.org
Fax: (319) 655-7537



IOWA AMERICAN LEGION HAWKEYE BOYS STATE

A training program in citizenship and democracy

American Legion Boys State is a leadership action program where qualified male high school juniors take part in a practical government course. The course is designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them that government is what they make it.

Iowa American Legion Hawkeye Boys State is a **six-day** “hands on” experience in the operation of the democratic form of government, the organization of political parties, and how relationships shape Iowa government. With over 700 delegates in attendance, Boys State offers an opportunity to meet people who represent Iowa’s diversity in heritage and culture. Through the Boys State objective of “learning by doing”, young men will learn more about city, county, and state government in one week than they would in an entire semester of high school.

GOALS

To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship.

To arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of our government.

To develop an understanding of American traditions and belief in the United States of America.

To arouse in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government.

CONTACT INFORMATION

John Derner
Adjutant
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: (515) 282-5068 or (800) 365-8387

Fax: (515) 282-7583

E-mail: info@ialegion.org

Web site: www.iowaboysstate.org

Criteria for Youth:

- *Males who have completed their **junior year** in high school
- *Have a desire to learn
- *Have high moral character
- *Possess strong leadership abilities
- *Have above average scholastic standing
- *Schools make recommendations and youth are selected in early spring.
- ***Scholarships available** therefore **little or no expense** to family



IOWA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa believes training our youth about the basic ideals and principles of our system of government will help to ensure the survival of our republic. Through a unique citizenship training program, Auxiliary members teach youth to understand, comprehend and appreciate their roles as United States citizens. This program is called **Iowa Girls State**.

“Over 21,000 high school seniors nationwide (320 in Iowa) will be given a unique opportunity to learn citizenship by participating in the mechanisms of government under the guidance of experienced American Legion Auxiliary volunteers and professionals. The program primarily consists of organizing political parties, working ‘in committees’, electing party, local and state officials, and debating bills.

Girls State programs aid participants in developing leadership skills, confidence, and poise that can be a lasting foundation for success in their personal professional lives.”

GOALS

To develop leadership and pride in American citizens.
To educate delegates about our system of government.

To instill in delegates a great understanding of American traditions.
To stimulate a desire to maintain our government processes.

*Youth
selected in
early spring.*

*Scholarships
for National Girls
State events
available.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marlene Valentine
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: (515) 282-7987
Fax: (515) 282-7583
E-mail: alasectreas@ialegion.org
Web site: www.ialegion.org/ala

Criteria for Youth:

- *Females who have completed their **junior year** in high school
- *Have a desire to learn
- *Have high moral character
- *Possess strong leadership abilities
- *Have above average scholastic standing
- *Schools make recommendations
- ***little or no expense** to family.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Iowa State University Extension 4-H Youth Development creates supportive environments for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their full potential.

STATE 4-H CONFERENCE

This conference at Iowa State University allows **any Iowa youth who has completed 8th grade through 12th grade** the opportunity for in-depth exploration of contemporary issues and career areas. It gives youth a chance to learn more about themselves, to work as a team member, and to give something to the community. It provides an understanding of how to make a difference through effective leadership, communication, and self-motivation and the chance to meet other youth from across Iowa, develop new friendships, and have fun. The conference is held **each June** and is planned by the members of the State 4-H Council.

STATE 4-H COUNCIL

The State 4-H Council exists to strengthen Iowa's total 4-H program. Members serve as 4-H ambassadors and partners with 4-H staff for planning, implementing, and evaluating 4-H programs. The State 4-H Council provides a significant leadership opportunity for older 4-H'ers beyond the area and county levels. The selection procedure consists of an **application and an interview** at the area level. Youth must be **10th-11th graders** at the time of application and serve on the council for one year during which they will meet 3-4 times at the State 4-H Camping Center.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Iowa State University Extension
4-H Youth Development
3630 Extension 4-H Youth Building
Ames, IA 50011

Phone: (515) 294-1017
Fax: (515) 294-1047
Web site: www.extension.iastate.edu/



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Open the door to your world.

Model United Nations is a simulation of the diplomacy, problem solving and responsibilities of the United Nations. High school students from throughout Iowa and the upper Midwest come to the HS Model UN Spring Conference held at the University of Northern Iowa. At the Spring Conference, the 750 participating delegates spend **two half days and one full day** simulating the United Nations process, producing quality discussion and ideas throughout the conference.

The **Iowa Youth Symposium** takes place in late October at the Iowa Statehouse in Des Moines. During this **two-day** event, students discuss what the United States policy should be on a variety of topics. Students are encouraged to share their ideas with others, participate in a roundtable discussion, and experience public speaking through debates.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Must be in **high school**.
- *Students become members through their schools.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Model UN Office
319 Seerley Hall
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0701

Phone: (319)273-2668
Fax: (319) 273-3033
Email: ihsmun@email.com
Web site: www.uni.edu/ihsmun

Iowa Student Global Leadership Conference

The Iowa Student Global Leadership Conference was initiated in 1996 for the purpose of bringing Iowa students together with international students attending high schools in Iowa. Each year the international students invite an Iowa partner to attend the conference. Iowa families that host international exchange students are encouraged to send their international students and their own children when possible. The international exchange agencies that sponsor the students select the international exchange student to attend.

Students stay in the Hotel Fort Des Moines in Des Moines for two days in February. They work in small groups to develop action plans addressing global issues such as: environment, economic disparity, education, health, immigration, safety, human rights, and population growth. Through discussions the students learn that there are many perspectives to these global issues. Students also develop skits and interact with experts on global issues.

Criteria for Youth

Grades 9-12
Submit an application
Interest in international issues
Registration fee of 25.00 (includes hotel and meals)
Some transportation is provided.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Iowa Council for International Understanding
1000 Walnut, Suite 1105
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: (515) 282-8269 Ext. 14
Fax: (515) 282-0454

Web site: www.iciu.org/youth_global_conf.shtml

Sponsors

Iowa Council for International Understanding, Des Moines
The Stanley Foundation, Muscatine

State Government Leadership Development Opportunities

*Descriptions and contact information for state government
opportunities*



- Who?** ISPAC (pronounced ice-pack) is a program designed for students in grades 6-12.
- What?** ISPAC stands for the Iowa Student Political Awareness Club. Secretary of State Chet Culver created this free, non-partisan, statewide civic education program to increase political awareness and participation by young people. Secretary Culver is a former high school teacher and coach who is committed to educating young people about the importance of civic involvement. ISPAC stresses the importance of becoming involved in the political arena and strives to educate young Iowans about how our democratic process works.
- Where?** Students may join ISPAC by completing an ISPAC application on-line at www.sos.state.ia.us or calling 1-888-SOS-VOTE.
- Why?** Since 1971 and the final ratification of the 26th Amendment, which gave 18 year-olds the right to vote, voter participation by young people has steadily declined. Three reasons given in a recent study for not voting were: lack of Access to the political process and candidates, lack of Information about the political process and candidates, and lack of understanding the Mechanics of the political process and voting.

Become a member and receive:

- An ISPAC membership card and certificate;
- The ISPAC News Newsletter;
- The opportunity to participate in programs sponsored by Secretary of State Chet Culver;
- Lots of fun and educational enjoyment!

All ISPAC programs are designed to provide students with greater Access to candidates and elected officials, more Information about issues and a better understanding of the Mechanics of the political process. ISPAC activities include:

Capitol Project - three-day program held at the State Capitol, offers students an opportunity to learn first-hand about state government and the legislative process.

Mock Elections - participating students explore and discuss campaign and policy issues, seek answers from and interact with candidates, and cast their vote. ISPAC produces and distributes voter guides to participating classrooms.

Capitol Youth Day - a full-day program that offers students the opportunity to visit the Capitol, meet statewide elected officials and legislators, and participate in a rally on the Capitol steps. High school students learn the basics of lobbying and are encouraged to lobby their legislators, while elementary and junior high students learn about the voting process and have the opportunity to participate in a mock election.

Legislative Youth Forums - are held with members of the state legislature during each legislative session over the ICN. These forums give students the opportunity to learn more about the pending youth-related legislation.

ISPA Caucus and Forums - provide students with the opportunity to participate in their own mock caucus in the classroom and include candidate forums.

ISPAC Newsletter – a non-partisan publication featuring information on civic education, politics and youth activities. It is distributed to nearly 4,000 ISPAC members.



CHET CULVER

Iowa Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 105
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Web site:

www.sos.state.ia.us/StudentYouth/ispac/index.html

1-888-SOS-VOTE



DEAF SERVICES COMMISSION OF IOWA JUNIOR COMMISSION PROGRAM

This program offers a unique opportunity for leadership development among Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, KODA (Kids of Deaf Adults), and Hearing high school students. The **DSCI Junior Commission Program** encourages Iowa's youth to carry on leadership roles. Participants will be exposed to teamwork with individuals of diverse backgrounds and debates on issues that affect deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people. This is an opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Participants attend a Junior Commission Program Camp for a week in the summer, then meet quarterly throughout the year. During this program, students will develop a list of recommendations to be presented to the DSCI Commission, a Governor-appointed commission composed of seven individuals of diverse backgrounds. The Commissioners work closely with both general public and people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide specialized programs that empower these individuals.

The DSCI Junior Commission Program provides an opportunity to make new friends and affect change in State Government. For many teens, it may be the first time they have met other Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, learned about assistive technology, and met peers who have had similar experiences. Most importantly, this program opens communication among Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing teens.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Must be in **grades 7-12**
- *Any students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, KODA, or Hearing.
- *Applications are available on DSCL's website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Deaf Services Commission of Iowa
Junior Commission Program Staff
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Phone: (515) 281-3164 TYY/Voice

Toll Free: (888)221-3724

Fax: (515) 242-6119

E-mail: thr.dsci@thr.state.ia.us

Web site:

www.state.ia.us/government/thr/ds



IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE

“As a Page, youth actively participate in many aspects of law-making. From the introduction of a bill to the final vote, the Page’s versatility, initiative, and enthusiasm will make them an integral part of the staff.”

House of Representatives Pages provide invaluable assistance to Representatives and House staff by running errands, delivering messages and distributing bills and amendments. Pages also staff committee meetings and help the chairperson by handling materials needed during the meetings. Some Pages will be assigned to aid the House Journal, Legal Counsel, and Caucus Staff and to assist the Bill Clerks in sorting and distributing bills and amendments.

Since Staff and Representatives often work late, Pages must be prepared to remain on duty until they are no longer needed, which could require working into the night as the session progresses.

Through this experience, students learn about the House of Representatives, leadership skills, and responsibility.

Criteria for Youth:

- *High school **junior or senior** of high academic standing.
- *Selection based on application and interview
- *Need not have political experience

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chief Clerk
House of Representatives
Statehouse
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 281-5381
Fax: (515) 281-8758

Web site: www.legis.state.ia.us

IOWA SENATE PAGE



Each year the **Iowa Senate** employs a group of Iowa high school juniors and seniors of high academic standing to serve as Pages during the legislative session. Senate Pages perform their duties in the Senate chamber during the entire legislative session from January to May. Duties consist primarily of running errands for Senators and Senate staff to assist in getting the work of the Senate done. Some of the Pages are assigned to assist the President of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Majority and Minority Leaders.

In working closely with the Legislators and staff, Pages get a close-up view of how the General Assembly operates and in particular what the Senate does, how legislation is developed, considered and passed as well as how state government leaders go about their work.

Criteria for Youth:

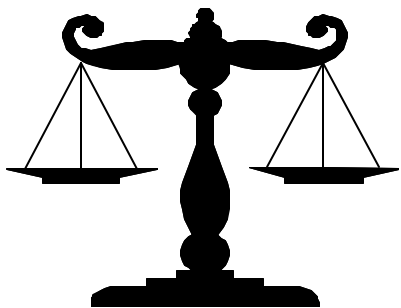
- *High school **junior or senior** of high academic standing
- *Selection based on application and interview
- *Need not have political experience or interest in participating in politics

CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary of the State
Statehouse
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 281-5307
Fax: (515) 242-6108

Web site: www.legis.state.ia.us



IOWA STUDENT LEGISLATURE

Experiencing the law making process by sitting at the Representatives' desks and using their microphones and voting machines.

Sponsored by the Iowa House of Representatives

More than a legislative experience, the Student Legislature depicts government in action. Students also serve as lobbyists, pages, media and staff. House staff members work with the students to explain parliamentary procedures, how to amend bills, and how to debate effectively. In addition, professional lobbyists, news reporters, and researchers assist their student counterparts in the performance of their duties.

The **Student Legislature** is your three-day opportunity to go beyond the textbook theories of lawmaking and enter the world of committee meetings, caucuses, floor debates and votes. As a Student Representative, you write your own bills, submit them to the House and decide your party's stand on the issues. In your caucus groups, you elect party leaders and get the bills ready for introduction onto the floor.

Finally, using your representative's desk and microphone, you present your arguments for and against legislation and then vote on the bills and their amendments.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Must be a high school **junior or senior**
- *Have parent and school consent
- *Cover the cost of two nights hotel, food and transportation (students share rooms to defray costs)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chief Clerk's Office
Iowa House of Representatives
Statehouse
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 281-5381
Fax: (515) 281-8758



IOWA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Wanted: Future Community Leaders!!

The **Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF)** is a **five-day** leadership training program held during the summer for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities.

At the forum, youth will share information on choosing careers, history of disability culture, assistive technology for independence; identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers; develop a “Personal Leadership Plan”; and interact with others with similar hopes and dreams.

GOALS

Become employed and self-sufficient.

Be knowledgeable about resources available to them to become successful adults.

Be exposed to professionals with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models.

Criteria for Youth:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jill Avery
Division of Persons with Disabilities
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 242-6172
V/TTY: (888) 219-0471
Fax: (515) 242-6119

Email: hdr.disabilities@iowa.gov
Web site: www.state.ia.us/government/hdr/pd/

*Open to **juniors and seniors with disabilities.**

*Demonstrate leadership potential, community involvement, and interact well with others.

*Diverse in disability, gender, ethnicity, and geographical location.

***No cost for room and board.** Some travel expenses may be reimbursed in special circumstances.



Iowa teens fighting big tobacco

JEL is the statewide youth movement targeting tobacco use, developed and led by high school students. The movement takes a hard-hitting approach to tobacco control, targeting the tobacco industry for their sales and advertising tactics. JEL seeks to expose the truth about the tobacco industry and the deadly effects of tobacco.

JEL holds an **annual summit** where students from across the state come together to devise a campaign strategy and advocacy activities on both the state and local levels. A current goal of some JEL participants involves policy change within their own communities that would ban smoking in restaurants and other public places. Other students are working to ban tobacco use on their school campuses. JEL also has its own media/marketing campaign to combat the advertising of the tobacco industry.

Any **youth between the ages of 13 and 24** can be part of JEL. There are many opportunities to become an active participant. JEL is led by one presiding officer, three youth members of the State Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control, and a 35-member executive council. All of these leaders are youth selected during the annual state summit. They work with the Iowa Department of Public Health and are currently consulted on the ongoing ad campaign. Starting in 2007, the Executive Council will aid in the creation of future campaigns.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Must be **between the ages of 13 and 24**.
- ***No cost** for participating.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Garin Buttermore
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

Phone: (515) 281-4299
Fax: (515) 242-6384
Email: gbutterm@idph.state.ia.us
Web site: www.jeliowa.org



State of Iowa Youth Action Committee

SIYAC

“YOUTH – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!”

The concept of the State of Iowa Youth Action Committee (SIYAC) was born with the recognition that those responsible for state policy should hear the voices of Iowa’s youth. SIYAC is the product of an effort to form a representative nonpartisan committee of youth that interact on a regular basis with state agencies and policymakers to discuss those issues that impact, and are of interest to, the youth of Iowa.

SIYAC is comprised of 15-24 diverse members, with representation from all five congressional districts. To reflect Iowa’s diversity, a directed effort is made to recruit and build a committee of youth from varying backgrounds and experiences.

Youth are offered support to carry out their duties by being paired with a Community Mentor (local school/community person) and a State Contact (state employee) who provide them with advice and assistance. SIYAC members receive ongoing training on the issues facing state government and on the process of policy development. Special training is also provided so the youth can improve their leadership skills while serving as representatives.

Criteria for Youth

- Entering 10-12th grade
- Complete application, screening and interview process
- Serve a one-year term
- Meet monthly in Des Moines
- Attend a June retreat
- Willingness to represent the views of Iowa youth.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Amy Croll
Iowa Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 242-5823
Fax: (515) 242-6119
E-mail: amy.croll@iowa.gov



Iowa Youth Connections Council

***“A voice for Iowa youth in care and
an advocate for improvement of the foster care system.”***

The Iowa Youth Connections Council (IYCC)...

was formally created in December 2001 by the Department of Human Services (DHS) as a way for the youth in Iowa's foster care system to be involved in the system that serves them. The purposes of creating this Council was to have youth give input on foster care issues and to involve youth in meetings, trainings and other activities to improve the foster care system in Iowa. Since its establishment, the Council has worked to communicate the view of youth in care and create an agenda to improve Iowa's foster care system.

Current focus areas of the Council include public education, promoting connections between youth and adults who work with foster youth, and advocating for change by talking to representatives of DHS and government officials.

Who We Are:

- A group of up to 16 young men and women from across the state of Iowa.
- Current or former foster care youth
- High school and college age young people between the age of 14 and 20
- People with different interests and backgrounds
- Youth with various experiences including group homes, foster homes, and other out of home placements
- Youth wanting the foster care system to be better for future generations.

Criteria for Youth:

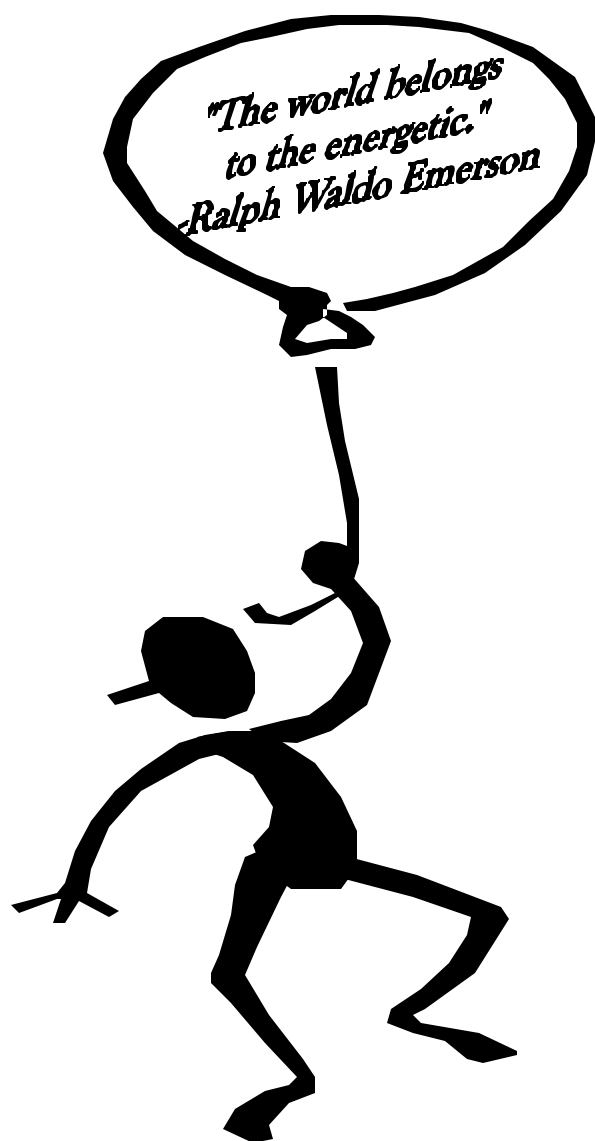
- Age 14 to 20
- Be a current or former foster care youth
- Complete an application and interview process
- Willing to make a commitment to attend six meetings and work on projects over the next year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sue Tew
2 Consulting, Inc.
Phone: (515) 210-2073
E-mail: sue2consulting@aol.com

Or

Holli Noble
Iowa Department of Human Services
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: (515) 281-6786
E-Mail: hnoble@dhs.state.ia.us



National Leadership Development Opportunities

*Descriptions and contact information for
National opportunities*



CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS

“Better Citizens Today, Better Leaders
Tomorrow.”

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a 4-H leadership program for high school youth from across the country. Every summer thousands of young people stay at the National 4-H Conference Center, near Washington D.C., to participate in this **week-long** program.

For 37 years, CWF has enriched young people's lives by providing opportunities for them to:

- Broaden appreciation and practice respect for themselves and others in their world.
- Increase individual commitment to citizen involvement.
- Understand the importance of civic and social responsibilities
- Relate to the development of better citizens and leaders.
- Practice fitness and have fun!!

This program accomplishes this with a look behind the scenes at the nation's capital through workshops, committees, field trips, and social events. A college-age Program Assistant accompanies delegates during their week at CWF. The **week-long** program is offered in the **summer** for seven consecutive weeks each year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeunice Salita-Lim
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Phone: (800) 368-7432 or (301) 961-2892
Fax: (301) 961-2922

E-mail: rcook@fourhcouncil.edu
Web site: www.cwf.n4h.org/

Criteria for Youth:

- *4-H members in high school.
- ***Between ages of 14-19**
- *Strong desire to learn and participate
- *Cost is per person and delegates contract through a group coordinator who is usually an Extension agent in a county or state office.



CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

“The Congressional Youth Leadership Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that focuses on leadership development for outstanding young people. Students from across the country and around the world come to Washington, D.C. and New York City to participate in educational programs, which inspire them to assume greater leadership roles locally, nationally and internationally.”

National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC)

NYLC is a youth leadership program designed to motivate and inspire top **sophomore, junior and senior students** from around the country and the world. **Six-day** sessions are held sixteen times throughout the year, and eight **eleven-day** sessions are offered in the summer.

Students discuss major issues of the day with prominent policymakers, government officials and leading academic figures. They also participate in small group discussions, seminars on current topics, and intriguing simulations.

Students are nominated to participate in this conference by educators or by CYLC alumni, in conjunction with school officials. Students may also be admitted through an application process. Acceptance into the program is based on students' outstanding qualities in academics, leadership and citizenship. Scholarships covering the cost of attending are available.

Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference (PYIC)

PYIC is a **six-day** program **held every four years** following the presidential election for high school aged alumni of the National Young Leaders Conference. This program provides students with the chance to participate in the fascinating and historic events of a presidential inauguration and offers the opportunity to attend public and private inaugural events.

Other Programs:

CYLC also offers a Junior National Young Leaders Conference, a Juniors Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference, a Global Young Leaders Summit and a National Young Leaders State Conference.

Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC)

This is a **twelve-day** summer program, which offers students from countries all over the world the unique opportunity to interact with each other and explore global leadership issues.

High achieving students from age 16 to 18 focus on communication, economics, peace and security, law and human rights, and several other global issues as well as give a greater understanding of their role as global ambassadors. Seven sessions are being offered in the summer of 2006.

Students are nominated to participate in this conference by educators or by CYLC alumni, in conjunction with school officials. Students may also be admitted through an application process. Acceptance into the program is based on students' outstanding qualities in academics and leadership.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Congressional Youth Leadership Council
1700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Phone: (703) 584-9230
E-mail: cylc@cylc.org
Web site: www.cylc.org



National Council on Youth Leadership

"Inspiring & Shaping the Future of Our Youth"

Each year more than 750,000 students throughout the country are impacted by NCYL activities. Through a variety of opportunities, these students use their skills to reach hundreds of thousands of their peers.

WINNER'S SEMINAR:

"A Leadership Experience For Youth"

is a seminar geared toward high school freshmen and sophomores but is available to all high school and middle school students. Through activities and discussion the Winner's Seminar, youth improve skills in developing positive attitude, gaining self-esteem, setting goals, listening, discipline, making intelligent and informed choices, and problem solving.

YOUTH SALUTE:

The Youth Salute program consists of 36 chapters throughout the country. They have been implemented to recognize outstanding and balanced high school seniors. Iowa chapters are located throughout the state and include sites in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Muscatine, Quad Cities, Sioux City, and the Tri State Area.

WIN WITH WELLNESS:

This program works with a team of high school juniors to develop leadership skills, educate, and promotes healthy lifestyle choices. Students work within their community using local hospitals and community colleges to promote these healthy choices.

TOWN MEETING ON TOMORROW:

The Town Meeting on Tomorrow brings together the top high school senior leaders from each Youth Salute chapter across the country. These students meet at Washington University in St. Louis, MO in October to discuss problems facing today's youth and develop potential solutions. In addition to the award of financial scholarships for the top male and female national youth leaders, ten other financial scholarships and twelve Jamie Harder Team Spirit Awards are presented at the conference.

CONTACT INFORMATION

National Council on Youth Leadership
Box 216
West Liberty, IA 52776

Phone: (515) 779-9700
Fax: (515) 246-1587
E-mail: ghrieman@hotmail.com
Web Page: www.ncyl.org

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING



The goal of this camp is for young people to learn and serve back in their home communities.

Throughout this week-long camp, participants are challenged through outdoor, experiential and service activities where they must learn to communicate and problem solve with others from very different backgrounds. Physically rigorous activities such as aerobics, rock climbing and canoeing, combined with intellectually stimulating seminars, small group interaction, and time for reflection produce young people who are willing and able to lead and serve in their home communities.

Young people serving and learning in their home communities is the ultimate goal of the Camp. During the final two days of training, teams of participants and their adult sponsors complete intensive planning for community service and leadership projects back home. National Youth Leadership Council staff and colleagues nationwide are available to assist teams as they implement these plans. The 2006 camp will be held July 16-23.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Students entering grade
- *Teams of 2-10 from sponsoring schools and organizations are encouraged.
- *Individuals are welcome too.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Angie Martinez
NYLC
1667 Snelling Avenue North
Suite D300
St. Paul, MN 55108

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E-mail: nylccamp@nylc.org
Web site: www.nylc.org

PEARSON SEMINAR ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



In order to strengthen the role which young people will play in the new millennium, the Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership will allow you to join 100 student participants (**Grade 10 - 12**) from North America and other nations for a three-week seminar on the campus of Lester B. Pearson College, Victoria, B.C. on Canada's beautiful west coast. Broaden your own perspective on key world issues through formal and informal presentations, interactive seminars and face-to-face discussions with youth your own age. This year's camp will be July 26 through August 16.

The **three-week experience** is intended to:

- Develop leadership skills among young representatives from Canada and beyond.
 - Understand the global and multicultural context of the new millennium.
 - Address urgent environmental and social issues.
 - Analyze and solve problems relevant to youth.

Criteria for Youth:

*Cost: \$2,600 (CAN) with \$350 deposit with application.

*Transportation to and from Victoria is not covered in cost.

*Complete application process.

*Currently in grades 10 through 12 and/or age 15-18 and in good academic standing



CONTACT INFORMATION

The Program Director
Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership
Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific
650 Pearson College Dr.
Victoria, B.C.
Canada V9C 4H7

Phone: (250) 391-2411

Fax: (250) 391-2412

E-mail: youth@pearsoncollege.ca

Web site: www.psyl.ca

People to People Student Ambassador Program

Get ready for the world!!

The People to People Student Ambassador Program is the nation's leading overseas experience for grade school, middle school and high school students.

Travel overseas for 2–3 weeks during the summer, winter or spring breaks to learn, share, and represent your community and school. These invitation-only educational journeys combine hands-on cultural experiences; unique, behind-the-scenes access to new people and places; and amazing outdoor adventures to create a life-changing educational experience.

Depending on your grade and itinerary, you'll get to do some amazing things and meet some very cool people. Here's a breakdown:

- Experience adventure in the real world! Feed dolphins, hike the Alps, ride a camel, swim the Great Barrier Reef, take a Tuscan cooking lesson, lounge at the beach on the Riviera, explore the Pyramids.
- Stay with a family and visit their school.
- Meet with leading officials at the House of Parliament, Red Cross, NATO, or the United Nations.
- Learn about international careers.
- Earn high school or university credit.
- Win an award.

Criteria for Youth:

- ❖ Grade school to high school students.
- ❖ Complete an interviewing process.
- ❖ Attend a minimum of 12 classroom hours for preparation.
- ❖ Costs varies.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dwight D. Eisenhower Building
110 S. Ferrall St.
Spokane, WA 99202-4800

Phone: (509) 534-0430

Fax: (509) 534-5245

Email: info@studentambassadors.org

Web site: www.studentambassadors.org

YEARTH SERVICE CORPS

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

YMCA Earth Service Corps is a service-learning program for teens ready to make a difference in their communities. Grounded on the building blocks of leadership development, environmental education and action, and cross-cultural awareness, this proven program works in diverse communities and allows teens to use their talents, develop new skills and learn more about themselves and their surroundings. Most importantly, young people in Earth Service Corps are recognized as valuable resources who work hand-in-hand with others to solve important issues.

Currently, five Earth Service Corps programs are in operation in Iowa. These programs are located in Ames, Marshalltown, Blue Grass, Davenport, and Fort Madison. Moline, IL also has a program through the Two Rivers YMCA.

Youth and community volunteers are encouraged to get involved in a current program or work in conjunction with the local YMCA in the establishment of a new program in your community.

Criteria for Youth:

- *Willing to invest time in your community through volunteer projects and program development.
- *Work effectively with adults and other local volunteers.
- *Be dedicated to improving your neighborhood.

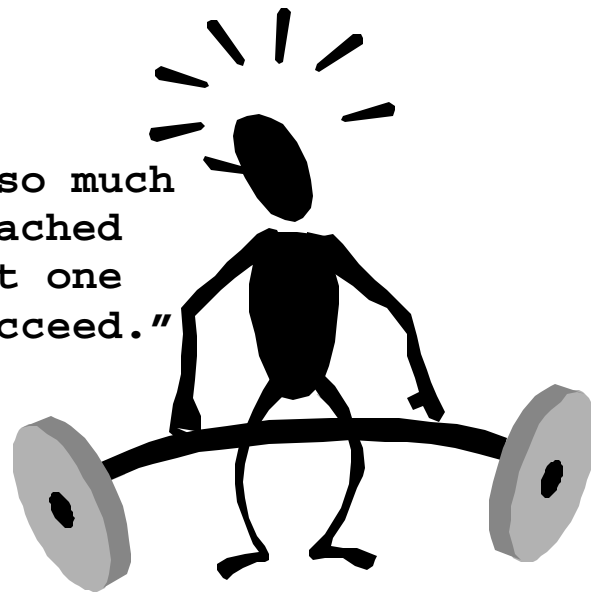
CONTACT INFORMATION

YMCA Earth Service Corps
National Resource Center
909 Fourth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Toll-free: 800-733-YESC
E-mail: info@yesc.org
Web site: www.yesc.org

"Success is to be measured not so much
by the position that one has reached
in life as by the obstacles that one
has overcome while trying to succeed."

-Booker T. Washington



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The leadership opportunity descriptions in this edition were designed and edited with the assistance of individual representatives from participating organizations. Photographs and logos were included at the request and with approval of those program representatives.

Comments or questions regarding *Leadership Development Opportunities, A Guide for Youth* should be referred to:

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**"The greatest achievements
are those that benefit others."**

-Dennise Waitley

